

Dear Childcare Provider,

Subject: Upcoming Changes to the Alberta Child Care Grant Funding Program

I am writing to inform you of upcoming changes to the professional development (PD) and release time (RT) funding under the Alberta Child Care Grant Funding program. Starting **April 1, 2026**, this funding will be delivered through a new program called the **Early Childhood Educator Workforce Supports Program**.

These changes reflect the Ministry's commitment to strengthening workforce capacity and ensuring program sustainability. The updated program focuses early childhood educator (ECE) PD and RT funding on training that builds core skills, increases competencies, supports higher certification levels, and strengthens leadership capacity across the sector.

Please share this information and the attached materials with all ECEs working in your program and family day home educators contracted with your agency so they are aware of the upcoming changes.

What is Changing

The updated program includes changes to eligibility, approval criteria and how funding requests are submitted:

Eligibility Requirements

- The minimum hours worked requirement will increase from 29 hours to 720 hours, based on eligible claimed and paid wage top-up hours in the past two years as of the date of training completion.
- Release time funding for employers will be discontinued.

Approved Training

Post-secondary coursework:

- Approved post-secondary coursework must be for early learning and childcare (ELCC) credit courses offered by Canadian institutions that contribute to a higher level of certification for Level 1 and 2 ECEs and/or an ELCC educational credential for Level 3 ECEs.

Workshops and conferences:

- A draft list of approved workshops and conferences is attached. This list will apply for one year, from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, and no additions will be made during this period. Approved workshops and conferences will support:
 - Level 1, 2, and 3 ECEs to strengthen pedagogical practice aligned with *Flight*, Alberta's ELCC curriculum framework.
 - Level 3 ECEs to build leadership skills.

Submitting Funding Requests

Revised funding request requirements and timelines will apply.

Post-secondary coursework:

- PD Funding Request Forms, along with proof of payment and completion, must be submitted within three calendar months of course completion. For courses started between January and

March 2027, funding requests must be submitted within three calendar months of completion or by June 30, 2027, whichever is sooner.

Workshops and conferences:

- PD Funding Request Forms, along with proof of payment and completion, must be submitted within three calendar months of completing the training or by March 31, 2027, whichever is sooner.

Transition Policy

The transition policy addresses what applicants must do by March 31, 2026, and on or after April 1, 2026.

Post-secondary coursework:

- Funding requests for courses paid for on or before March 31, 2026, must be submitted by March 31, 2026. Requests submitted on or after April 1, 2026, for these courses will not be accepted.

Workshops and conferences completed on or before March 31, 2026:

- Funding requests submitted within the 2025/26 fiscal year will be assessed under the 2025/26 criteria.

Workshops and conferences completed after March 31, 2026:

- Funding requests that confirm payment made on or before March 31, 2026, will still be assessed under the 2025/26 criteria.
- Funding requests received on or after April 1, 2026, must meet the new 2026/27 requirements and be resubmitted using the updated form, available after March 31, 2026.

To help you understand these changes, a fact sheet, frequently asked questions, and the draft list of approved workshops and conferences are attached. Additional information, including the final Funding Guide for the Early Childhood Educator Workforce Supports Program, will be available on **April 1, 2026**, at [Alberta.ca/child-care](https://alberta.ca/child-care).

Thank you for your continued commitment to providing high-quality childcare for Alberta families. If you have any questions, please contact the department at 1-800-661-9754 or email childcarefunding@gov.ab.ca.

Yours truly,



Tanis Liebreich
Assistant Deputy Minister, Childcare Strategy and Policy

Attachments:

1. Fact Sheet
2. Frequently Asked Questions
3. Approved Draft List of Workshops and Conferences